Occupational Therapy

Degree Offered
- Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)

Introduction
In the fall of 1993, the West Virginia Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a new master's degree program at WVU, leading to an entry-level master's degree in occupational therapy. WVU accepted its first students into the professional program in the fall semester of 1996. The academic and fieldwork program requires three years to complete. Prior to application, students are required to complete approximately fifty to fifty-five hours of prerequisite courses, which in most instances will take two years to fulfill.

The Profession of Occupational Therapy
Occupational therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession which provides services to people of all ages, and addresses physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory, communication, and other areas of performance in various contexts and environments in every day life activities that affect health, well-being, and quality of life (AOTA, 2004). Occupational Therapy is a caring profession designed to help people regain and build skills that are important for health, well-being, security, and happiness. The purpose of occupational therapy is to help individuals achieve a maximum level of independence and function through engagement in occupation in order to lead independent, productive, and satisfying lives. The focus is on assisting and enabling individuals to develop the capacity to function in all activities (occupations) of daily life, including self-care, work, and leisure. Hence the name occupational therapy.

Occupational therapists work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, skilled nursing homes, and private practice.

Accreditation Status
WVU's Division of Occupational Therapy has been granted accreditation status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, M.D. 20814-3449. ACOTE's phone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA. The OT program at WVU was initially awarded accreditation in 1998 and awarded re-accreditation in 2013. The next scheduled onsite visit for accreditation will be in 2023-2024. ACOTE information may be accessed at www.acoteonline.org (http://www.acoteonline.org).

Graduates of the program are able to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Inc. (NBCOT). The address for NBCOT is: National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc., 12 South Summit Avenue, Suite 100, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150. For more information, NBCOT can be contacted at (301) 990-7979 or at http://www.nbcot.org/. After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note: A felony conviction may impact a graduate’s ability to take the NBCOT examination and/or obtain a state license. For further information on NBCOT’s Character Review Program, interested parties can obtain information from the licensing board in that particular state.

Prospective students, applicants, and interested parties can review program data results for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam at: https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx

What to Expect
Like many professional programs, the curriculum in the entry-level master’s occupational therapy program is fairly fixed and intense. The first professional year, which begins in the summer, will include courses in basic sciences relevant to the profession and practice of occupational therapy along with introductory professional courses. The second and third professional years will deal more specifically with training in occupational therapy theory and practice as administered across a wide variety of settings. The professional curriculum includes two off-campus, full-time clinical experiences known as Level II Fieldwork. Students are financially responsible for transportation, housing, and meal expenses related to clinical assignments. Students in the program are required to participate in the School of Medicine’s laptop computer purchase lease-to-own program, which provides each student with a state-of-the-art computer that contains course and program-relevant software.

All OT coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher. Further, OT students must maintain an OT coursework GPA of 3.0 or higher while in the OT Program.

Students in the OT Program must complete all didactic coursework and all fieldwork within a period of five years after commencing the occupational therapy program. Furthermore, all Level II Fieldwork must be completed within eighteen months following completion of academic coursework while remaining within the five-year time frame.
FACULTY

CHAIR
• Randy P. McCombie - Ph.D., OTR/L (Loyola University of Chicago)
  Chair, Program Director - Associate Professor

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Anne Cronin - Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA (University of Florida)
• Diana Davis - Ph.D, MA, OTR/L (West Virginia University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Amy Burt - M.O.T., OTR/L (University of Pittsburgh)
• Amanda Acord-Vira - M.O.T., OTR/L (West Virginia University)
• Brandy Brown - O.T.D., OTR/L (Chatham University)
• Garth Graebe - M.O.T., OTR/L (West Virginia University)
• Brian Scaife - OTD, OTR/L (Chatham University)
• Sue Ann Woods - MOT, OTR/L, CHT (West Virginia University)

Admission Standards
Normally, students apply to the program during their second year of college. They must have a minimum of fifty to fifty-five hours of college credit which includes the prerequisites. Students who already have a degree in another field are also eligible to apply. All applicants must meet the following criteria:

• Minimum GPA of 3.0, including overall GPA and prerequisite GPA, is required (a higher GPA may be necessary given the competitive nature of the program).
• All OT prerequisite & GEF courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher.
• Minimum of sixty (60) hours of volunteer experience with at least two licensed occupational therapists (Students should contact the Division of Occupational Therapy to determine the type of experience required. Students should keep a record of dates/hours, locations, and names of supervising occupational therapists. Forms to record volunteer/shadowing experiences can be found online at http://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/ot ).
• Recommendations are required from two Occupational Therapists who supervised the volunteer/shadowing experience. These OTs must be from 2 different clinical facilities. Specific recommendation forms are available at the time of application within the on-line application packet.
• You may be enrolled in NO MORE THAN TWO OT prerequisite courses in Spring semester of your application year. All other OT prerequisites courses must be completed prior to this Spring semester. All OT prerequisite courses and WVU GEF courses must be completed by June 1st prior to starting the OT Program.
• *Note: Some OT prerequisite courses have their own course specific prerequisites. For example, physics courses at WVU require that students have completed college algebra and trigonometry. Students must check with those departments for specifics.
• IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicants must have completed all but a maximum of 2 OT prerequisite courses by the end of their Fall semester prior to the close of the Spring application period. Those applying to the OT Program will not be considered in the application review process if they are taking more than two OT prerequisite courses in the Spring semester prior to their anticipated start of summer classes in the OT Program. In other words, for those applying to the WVU OT Program, all but a maximum of two OT prerequisite courses must be fully completed by end of the Fall semester. Thus, applicants who are taking three or more OT prerequisite courses in the Spring semester will not be considered for acceptance into the OT Program. Applicants must plan on taking no more than two OT prerequisite courses in the Spring semester prior to the summer start of the Program for which they are applying. This requirement does not apply to WVU non-OT prerequisite general education (GEF) course requirements. Note: Courses with a required lab, including those courses that have labs with a separate course number, may be considered one course for purposes of this requirement, i.e., a course plus its lab equal one course. Students are strongly urged to contact the Division of OT for clarification or if they have any questions on this requirement.

Application forms are available online on the program homepage at medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/ot Questions regarding application materials may be directed to The Division of OT at (304) 293-8828 or to the OT Program Academic Advisor at (304) 293-1690. Application materials are traditionally available November 15 through February 15. The deadline for submission of application materials is typically February 15. The official deadline will be posted on the occupational therapy website and printed in the admissions packet.

Course information for the master of occupational therapy degree can be found on the following website: http://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/ot

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 4)

GENERAL EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS
Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef)
NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

**General Education Foundations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>F1 - Composition &amp; Rhetoric</th>
<th>3-6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; ENGL 102</td>
<td>and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 103</td>
<td>Accelerated Academic Writing</td>
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| F2A/F2B - Science & Technology | 4-6 |
| F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills | 3-4 |
| F4 - Society & Connections | 3 |
| F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past | 3 |
| F6 - The Arts & Creativity | 3 |
| F7 - Global Studies & Diversity | 3 |
| F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree) | 9 |

**Total Hours**: 31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

**Curriculum Requirements**

**GEF Requirements: GEF 6**

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<tr>
<th>Pre-Major Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 102</td>
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<td>or ENGL 103</td>
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<tr>
<td>WVUE 191</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 101</td>
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<td>PSYC 241</td>
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<td>PSYC 281</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA 101</td>
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<td>or SOCA 105</td>
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Select one of the following: 4-8

- BIOL 101
  - General Biology
  - and General Biology Laboratory
- & BIOL 103
  - and General Biology
- & BIOL 104
  - and General Biology Laboratory
- or BIOL 115
  - Principles of Biology

PHYS 101
- Introductory Physics | 4 |

STAT 211
- Elementary Statistical Inference | 3 |

Select one of the following (Students who take COMM 100 & 102 will need to complete GEF 5 & 6): 3

- COMM 100
  - Principles of Human Communication
  - and Human Communication in the Interpersonal Context
- & COMM 102
  - Public Communication
- or COMM 104

PSIO 241
- Elementary Physiology | 4 |
- or PSIO 441
  - Mechanisms of Body Function

OTH 201
- Medical Terminology for Occupational Therapy | 1 |

**Undergraduate Occupational Therapy Courses**

Minimum grade of C required.

Minimum GPA of 3.0 required

| OTH 301                  | Professional Foundations of OT | 2 |
| OTH 303                  | Functional Movement Across the Lifespan | 2 |
| OTH 304                  | Physical Impairment and Function 1 | 4 |
| OTH 307                  | Neurobiologic Foundations | 4 |
## Degree Requirements

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HUMAN PERFORMANCE AND HEALTH

Students are awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Performance and Health at the end of the senior year (year two in the OT program). In order to receive this degree, students must have successfully completed a minimum total of 122 hours of college credits, including completion of the GEF requirements.

### MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree is awarded upon completion of all required graduate work (typically the end of the third year in the OT program). Requirements for the MOT are found in the Graduate Catalog.

### Suggested Plan of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>4 BIOL 102</td>
<td>4 PSIO 241</td>
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<td>&amp; BIOL 104 (GEF 8)</td>
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<td>3 MATH 128</td>
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<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours Spring</th>
<th>Hours Summer</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 ENGL 102</td>
<td>3 OTH 301</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3 PHYS 101</td>
<td>4 OTH 311</td>
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Major Learning Goals

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

- Program content based on a broad foundation in the liberal arts and sciences. A strong foundation in the biological, physical, social, and behavioral sciences supports an understanding of occupation across the lifespan.
- The basic tenants of occupational therapy including its history, philosophy, foundation in occupation, and models of occupational performance.
- The process of screening, evaluation, and referral as related to occupational performance and participation that is culturally relevant and based on theoretical perspectives, models of practice, frames of reference, and available evidence.
- The process of formulation and implementation of the therapeutic intervention plan to facilitate occupational performance and participation that is culturally relevant; reflective of current occupational therapy practice; based on available evidence; and based on theoretical perspectives, models of practice, and frames of reference.
- Context of service delivery information and skills including the knowledge and understanding of the various contexts, such as professional, social, cultural, political, economic, and ecological, in which occupational therapy services are provided.
- Leadership and management skills including principles and applications of leadership and management theory.
- Promotion of scholarly endeavors including describing and interpreting the scope of the profession, establishing new knowledge, and interpreting and applying this knowledge to practice.
- Professional ethics, values, and responsibilities, including an understanding and appreciation of ethics and values of the profession of occupational therapy.